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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS ACTING AS PREPARATORY BODY FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES
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Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda

PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES AND TO PROPOSE NEW STRATEGIES, METHODS, PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIFIC MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE INFORMAL INTER-SESSIONAL MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION ACTING AS PREPARATORY BODY FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

Action plan against manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors

Addendum

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*E/CN.7/1998/PC/1.

V.98-51412 (E)

Comments and proposed amendments received from Governments

1. The first informal open-ended inter-sessional meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which was held from 7 to 9 July 1997, examined the topics of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors. The consensus reached at that meeting was reflected in two working papers, which were transmitted to all Governments under cover of a note verbale dated 19 August 1997. Governments were invited to make comments on elements not already included in the two working papers and to address those comments to the Secretariat before 25 September 1997.

2. The working paper on amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors (E/CN.7/1998/PC/2) will be before the Commission acting as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in June 1998.

3. Comments received from Governments in response to the note verbale mentioned above are contained in the present document and in document E/CN.7/1998/PC/2/Add. 1.

Section I

4. Mexico has suggested that section I of the working paper (E/CN.7/1998/PC/2) should reflect more clearly the commitment of the international community to raising awareness of the problem of ATS, and the commitment of States to combating that problem. In order to do that, amendments to paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 have been suggested.

Paragraph 2

5. Two sentences should be added to the beginning of paragraph 2, which, if amended, would read as follows:

> "2. The international community should give higher priority to combating the problem of ATS in all its aspects. The competent entities of the United Nations system should give appropriate consideration to this problem. The subject of ATS should become a regular item on the agenda of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and other international bodies related to drug control."

Paragraph 4

6. The word "continue" should be replaced by the word "strengthen" in paragraph 4, which would thus read as follows:

> "4. International bodies such as the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization (WHO) should strengthen their work on technical, scientific dimensions of the ATS problem and disseminate the results in regular publications for States and the general public."

Paragraph 5

7. Since Mexico has noted that the reference to the "global framework" in paragraph 5 is unclear, the Secretariat proposes the addition of the words "noted in paragraph 3 above", so that the paragraph would read as follows:

> "5. States should give the issue the priority and attention it deserves and implement the global framework noted in paragraph 3 above."

Section II

8. Mexico has noted that section II, on reducing demand, is too weak in relation to the rest of the text in the document and that a balance does not exist between the action indicated in the sections on limiting supply and strengthening the control system, which is described in greater detail, and the action indicated in section II. Particularly noticeable is the absence of specific measures for the prevention of amphetamine abuse.

Paragraph 9

9. Mexico has suggested that the action described in paragraph 9, whereby States are requested to use the information collated by international bodies for targeted prevention and treatment efforts as well as public awareness campaigns, should be strengthened.

10. In this connection, Mexico has suggested that it would be useful to incorporate into the text a request that States include information on the harmful effects of ATS abuse in their educational programmes. In addition, references to the importance of the promotion by States of awareness campaigns, particularly among children and youth, and to the importance of the participation of non-governmental organizations in preventive efforts should be included.

Section III

11. Mexico has noted that section III, which deals with the provision of accurate information on ATS, focuses on the control of information via the Internet. Although it regards such action as appropriate, Mexico suggests that it is also desirable to include measures relating to the role of traditional media and to the control of information on ATS provided by such media, in order to ensure that the risks of ATS abuse are more widely publicized.

12. With regard to the suggestion by Mexico that a section on "traditional media" be added to section III, the Secretariat would like to note that the subject is referred to in the report of the Expert Meeting on Amphetamine-type Stimulants, held at Shanghai, China, from 25 to 29 November 1996 (E/CN.7/1997/6, paras. 27-28).

Paragraph 17

13. Noting that in section IV the voluntary cooperation of the chemical industry is described as crucial to monitoring and preventing the diversion of ATS precursors but that no measures to do that are provided for in that section, Mexico has suggested adding a paragraph or subparagraph on the subject. The Secretariat proposes that it be included as subparagraph 17 (a), which would then read as follows:

> "(a) The promotion of close cooperation with industry to establish measures and/or a code of conduct governing trade in ATS precursors; ..."

14. If that amendment is accepted, the present subparagraphs 17 (a)-(c) would subsequently be re-numbered.

15. Mexico has also suggested that if there is agreement on the principle of sanctions against enterprises that do not agree to cooperate, the references to the voluntary nature of cooperation in paragraphs 16 and 17 could be replaced, *mutatis mutandis*.

Paragraph 20

16. Mexico has suggested that subparagraph 20 (b) should be re-phrased so that the words "Consider mandatory application of" would be replaced with the word "Implement"; thus, the subparagraph would read as follows:

> "(b) Implement the relevant Council resolutions, as well as the recommendations of the Board, aimed at strengthening the control of psychotropic substances under the 1971 Convention;"

17. Mexico has noted that subparagraph 20 (f) contains the only reference to technical and financial support for States that do not have sufficient capacity to implement the measures set out in the text. Mexico believes that the most suitable way to deal with the subject of resources would be to make a general reference to the commitment of States and the international community as a whole to the granting of the resources necessary to implement the measures contained in the political declaration; however, because of the complexity and rapid development of the amphetamine problem, a more strongly worded reference to the technical support required by developing countries should be included in the action plan. The support should not be limited to the regional level.

18. In order to provide technical support to developing countries for pursuing action suggested in the text, Mexico has suggested that in subparagraph 20 (f) the words "and assistance to States with limited expertise in dealing with the complex technical problems posed by ATS" should be deleted and that a new subparagraph, subparagraph (g), should be added; that subparagraph would read as follows:

> "(g) Provide, at the request of States with limited expertise in dealing with the complex technical problems posed by ATS, the necessary assistance to implement effective measures against the manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of ATS."

19. In order to implement the "know-your-client" principle, Mexico has suggested that a new sub-paragraph be added to paragraph 20. The new subparagraph, subparagraph (h), would read as follows:

> "(h) Improve the exchange of information between States on transactions involving ATS in order to strengthen the control system for such substances and their precursors and apply the 'know-your-client' principle;"